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#8  
GUY  
10/28/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: **Dennis R.  
Ulbrich and Derrick A. Pizarro**

ATTORNEY DKT. NO. **22578.3**

SERIAL NO. **09/902,440**

GROUP ART UNIT: **3677**

FILED: **July 10, 2001**

EXAMINING ATTORNEY: **Carlos Lugo**

TITLE: **Locking System For Gooseneck  
Trailer Hitch**

BOX RESPONSES—NO FEE  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RECEIVED**  
**OCT 21 2002**  
**GROUP 3600**

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Dear Examiner Lugo;

This correspondence is being filed in response to an Office Action mailed July 25, 2002.

Applicant herewith responds within three (3) months of the mailing date of the Office Action.

**REMARKS AND ARGUMENTS**

Examiner has rejected claims 8-11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Prior Art" in view of either U.S. Patent No. 4,699,395 to Hale ("Hale") or U.S. Patent No. 5,513,871 to Johnson ("Johnson").

It is apparent that Johnson and Hale involve two entirely different gooseneck trailer hitch designs. The gooseneck trailer hitch of Hale comprises a rotating sleeve and locking cams that engage the hitch ball. The gooseneck trailer hitch referenced in Johnson, on the other hand, utilizes plates having apertures that, when "scissored" to misalign the apertures, trap the hitch ball within the hitch assembly. The present invention is not intended for use with the gooseneck